

Application No.: 09/374,130

Docket No.: A3648.0012/P333

**REMARKS**

Claims 15 and 17-23 are pending in this application. Claims 15 and 17 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced.

Allowance of the application with claims 15 and 17-23 is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS**

15. (Three Times Amended) A method of operating a surge prevention valve, said method comprising the steps of:

moving at least a portion of a handle linearly therethrough causing a valve element to move in a first direction to cause oxygen to flow through a first path in said first direction at a first flow rate; and

subsequently, moving said handle when said linear movement has been achieved to cause a torque engagement that allows said handle to move in a second non-linear direction causing oxygen to flow through a second path in said non-linear direction at a second flow rate, said second flow rate being greater than said first flow rate.

17. (Three Times Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said step of moving said handle includes the step of rotating said handle [in a second direction and] to an open position.